In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-53. (Canceled)

54. (New) A tactile stimulation system, comprising:

a plurality of detectors receiving input representative of a plurality of predetermined physical properties, each detector providing an output when one or more of the detected physical properties falls outside a predetermined range,

a tactile alarm configured to be placed in contact with a skin surface on a subject to whom an output of the tactile alarm is to be provided and being in communication with the output of one or more of the detectors and to be actuated in response to selected ones of the plurality of predetermined physical properties falling outside their respective predetermined ranges;

wherein the tactile alarm is divided into physically discrete segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different predetermined property and provides tactile stimulation to the subject independently of other segments in response to an activation signal that corresponds to the predetermined property of the segment and a magnitude by which the predetermined property falls outside its predetermined range.

55. (New) A tactile stimulation system, comprising:

a plurality of detectors receiving input representative of a plurality of predetermined physical properties, each detector providing an output when one or more of the detected physical properties falls outside a predetermined range,

a tactile alarm configured to be placed in contact with a skin surface on a subject to whom an output of the tactile alarm is to be provided and being in communication with the output of one or more of the detectors and to be actuated in response to selected ones of the plurality of predetermined physical properties falling outside their respective predetermined ranges;

wherein the tactile alarm is divided into physically discrete segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different predetermined property and provides tactile stimulation to the subject independently of other segments in response to an activation signal that corresponds to the predetermined property of the segment and a magnitude by which the predetermined property falls outside its predetermined range, and

wherein the tactile alarm provides tactile pulses that are coded such that a particular coding corresponds to a predetermined physical property and wherein the coding of the pulses supplied to the segments varies in intensity or spatially over the tactile alarm proportionally with the predetermined property as it falls outside its predetermined range.

56. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, wherein the output of each detector is communicated to the tactile alarm by radio-frequency radiation.

57. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, further comprising a monitor disposed intermediate the output of each detector and the tactile alarm and a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms, the monitor processing the input from each detector and providing an activation signal to the one or more audible and/or visual alarms and the tactile alarm.

58. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, wherein the tactile alarm is in the form of the strip having a receiver for receiving the signals to activate the tactile alarm.

59. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, wherein the tactile alarm provides stimulation to the subject to apprise the subject of the falling of a predetermined property outside its predetermined range in the form of hot or cold sensations, electrical stimulation or vibration stimulation.

60. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 55, wherein the tactile alarm provides stimulation pulses that are coded by modulating the frequency.

61. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, wherein the tactile alarm is connected to a body part of the subject.

62. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 61, wherein the body part is chosen from the group consisting of a finger, a wrist, a forearm, a chest, a forehead, a neck, a shoulder, a back, a leg and a foot.

63. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, further comprising a self tester which provides an indication of the operability of the tactile stimulation system.

64. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, further comprising a failure alert which is actuated in response to a failure in the tactile stimulation system to activate the tactile alarm in response to a predetermined property falling outside its predetermined range.

65. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, further comprising a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms actuated by the detectors when one or more of the detected physical properties falls outside a predetermined range that are configured to be deactivated so that only the tactile alarm is capable of being activated.

66. (New) The tactile stimulation system of claim 54, wherein the predetermined physical properties include temperature, blood pressure, mass, length measurements, ECG data, oxymetry data, movement, electrical current or voltage, velocity, acceleration, presence of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, pressure, time or optical intensity.

67. (New) A tactile stimulation system, comprising:

a plurality of detectors receiving input representative of a plurality of predetermined physical properties, each detector providing an output when one or more of the detected physical properties falls outside a predetermined range,

a plurality of tactile alarms each configured to be placed in contact with a skin surface on a plurality of subjects to whom an output of the tactile alarm is to be provided and being in communication with the output of one or more of the detectors and to be actuated in response to ones of the plurality of predetermined physical properties falling outside their respective predetermined ranges;

wherein each tactile alarm is divided into segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different predetermined property to provide a tactile stimulation system to the subject when an activation signal provided in one segment corresponds to a particular property falling outside its predetermined range.

68. (New) A method of employing a tactile stimulation system comprising a plurality of detectors receiving input representative of a plurality of predetermined physical properties, each detector providing an output when one or more of the detected physical properties falls outside a predetermined range and a tactile alarm configured to be placed in contact with a skin surface on a subject to whom an output of the tactile alarm is to be provided and being in communication with the output of one or more of the detectors and to be actuated in response to selected ones of the plurality of predetermined physical properties falling outside their respective predetermined ranges; wherein the tactile alarm is divided into segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different predetermined property to provide a tactile stimulation system to the subject when an activation signal provided in one segment corresponds to a particular property falling outside its predetermined range, the method comprising:

detecting a plurality of predetermined physical properties and generating detector signals indicative of the properties;

disposing a tactile alarm on a subject wherein the tactile alarm is in communication with the detector signals and wherein the tactile alarm is activated in response to a selected one or more of the predetermined physical properties falling outside their predetermined range; and

dividing the tactile alarm into a plurality of segments wherein each segment corresponds to a different property such that a tactile alarm signal is provided to the subject from a respective segment when a corresponding property falls outside its predetermined range.

69. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 68, wherein each tactile alarm is configured to provide tactile stimulation in the form of coded tactile stimulus in

response to a corresponding property falling outside its predetermined range, the stimulus being coded depending on the property, the method including the step of applying a tactile alarm pulsed that varies in intensity or spatially over the tactile alarm proportionally with the predetermined property as it falls outside its predetermined range.

70. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 68, including the step of communicating the detector signals by radio-frequency radiation.

71. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 68, further comprising:

providing a plurality of audible and/or visual alarms such that when one or more of the physical properties falls outside a predetermined range, one or more of the audible and/or visual alarms is activated;

disposing a monitor intermediate the detectors and the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms communicating the detector signals to;

processing the detector signals at the monitor; and

providing one or more of the plurality of audible and/or visual alarms and the tactile alarm with an alarm activation signal.

72. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 68, wherein the tactile alarm signal is selected from the group comprising hot or cold sensations, electrical stimulation and vibration stimulation.

73. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 72, further comprising coding the tactile alarm signal by modulating the signal intensity or frequency.

74. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 73, further comprising disposing the tactile alarm on a portion of the body of the subject selected from the group consisting of fingers, wrists, forearms, chests, foreheads, necks, shoulders, backs, legs and feet.

75. (New) The method of employing a tactile stimulation system of claim 74, wherein the physical properties include temperature, blood pressure, mass, length measurements, ECG data, oximetry data, movement, of electrical current or voltage, velocity, acceleration, presence of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, pressure, time or optical intensity.